

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP-15510-2017 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 14.05.2018

Manmeet Singh

--Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab & others

--Respondents

**CORAM:- HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE AJAY KUMAR MITTAL,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA**

Present:- Petitioner in person.

Mr. Avinit Avasthi, A.A.G., Punjab.

Mr. Arun Gosain, Central Govt. Counsel and
Mr. R.S. Madan, Advocate for respondent no.3.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.J

1. Written statement of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, N.H.A.I, Industrial Area, Phase-9, Mohali on behalf of respondent no.3 has been filed in Court today and the same is taken on record. Copy has been furnished to petitioner, who appears in person.
2. With the consent of the parties, the writ petition is taken up for disposal today itself.
3. Instant petition has been filed in public interest seeking the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to implement the Policy dated 13.2.2017 (Annexure P-2) which had been issued by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, State of Punjab.
4. Suffice it to observe that the Policy in question had been issued under the subject of “**Gram Panchayat Plantation of Trees**”. The aim and objective of the Policy was to check the trend of declining underground water table and erosion of land to combat pollution, to create clean

environment and to enhance the green belt in the State of Punjab. Mandate of the Policy was to plant trees on the cultivable lands of the Gram Panchayats having more than five acres of land subject to conditions enumerated under the Policy itself.

5. A reply of the Director, Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab has been filed on behalf of respondents no.1 and 2 and wherein it has been stated that the Policy dated 13.02.2017 (Annexure P-2) has been implemented by the Gram Panchayats inasmuch as 9,84,384 trees on 4338 acres of land in 19 districts across the State have already been planted.

6. The submission advanced by counsel for extending the scope and ambit of the Policy dated 13.2.2017 (Annexure P-2) for plantation of trees along the newly constructed and under construction National Highways/State Highways, is not well founded.

7. From a bare perusal of the Policy dated 13.2.2017, we find that the same would not be applicable with respect to the lands acquired for construction of National Highways/State Highways.

8. No further directions in the matter are called for.

Writ petition is disposed of as having been rendered infructuous.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

(AJAY KUMAR MITTAL)
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

14.05.2018

lucky

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No